

Message Text

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ARA-06 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STRE-00 TRSE-00

FEA-01 STR-04 IO-10 PA-01 PRS-01 /117 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 684

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

UEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 439

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSIONT NATO

AMEMBASSY MADRID BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 4895

FOR USEC. ROBINSON FROM AMBASSADOR

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OECD ENRG NO

SUBJ: PRODUCER CONSUMER CONFERENCE: NORWEGIAN CANDIDACY FOR
MEMBERSHIP IN MINISTERIAL OF 27

REFS: OSLO 3683, 4284, 4706

1. I APPRECIATE THE INTEREST YOU INDICATED IN YOUR
DISCUSSION AT THE RECENT ECONOMIC COUNSELORS' MEETING IN
PARIS WITH MY E/C COUNSELOR, JOHN GRIFFITH, IN HAVING A
FULLER CLARIFICATION OF MY BELIEF THAT NORWAY
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE MINISTERIAL OF 27 AS ONE OF
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. THIS
CALRIFICATION FOLLOWS:

(A) OIL PRODUCER - NORWEGIAN SECTOR IS ESTIMATED TO
CONTAIN ONE-THIRD OF TOTAL NORTH SEA OIL AND GAS RESERVES
AND FAR LARGER RESERVES ARE BELIEVED TO LIE IN NORWEGIAN
SHELFS IN NORWEGIAN AND BARENTS SEAS. NORWAY WILL
PRODUCE APPROX. 80 MILLION TONS OF OIL AND GAS BY 1980
EQUIVALENT TO 1.5 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL A DAY. UNLIKE
U.K. 80 TO 90 PERCENT OF THIS OIL WILL BE EXPORTED AND NORWAY
WILL PROBABLY BE BIGGEST NON-OPEC OIL AND GAS EXPORTER
IN WESTERN WORLD AS WELL AS A MAJOR SOURCE OF EXPORT
CAPITAL. ALL U.K. ARGUMENTS FOR A SEPARATE SEAT APPLY
TO NORWAY. MOREOVER, WITHOUT A SEAT NORWAY (1) CANNOT
LOOK TO EEC REPRESENTATION AND (2) ITS POSITION AS THE
ONLY INDUSTRIAL COUNTRY WHICH IS A NET EXPORTER OF OIL
AND GAS WILL BE UNREPRESENTED.

(B) NORDIC REPRESENTATION - NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS
SAID IT CANNOT ACCEPT SWEDEN, THE OTHER MAJOR NORTHERN
TIER CANDIDATE, AS A NORDIC SPOKESMAN AND ARGUES THAT
UNLIKE NORWAY SWEDEN (1) IS A MAJOR IMPORTER OF OIL AND
GAS WHOSE IMPORT INTERESTS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY OTHER
IMPORTERS AMONG INDUSTRIAL AND LDC COUNTRIES AND
(2) IS A NEUTRAL WHOSE INTERESTS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY
SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA WHILE NORWAY IS A FULL MEMBER
OF NATO AND TOOK THE LEAD IN THE RECENT FOUR-COUNTRY
PURCHASE OF THE F-16.

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(C) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION - NORWAY HAS COOPERATED
CLOSELY WITH THE U.S. IN THE U.N. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL
BODIES AND AT THE SAME TIME HAS BEEN RAPIDLY INCREASING
TO ONE PERCENT OF GNP ITS GRANT AID TO THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES WHICH IN THEIR TURN CONSIDER NORWAY A BRIDGE-
BUILDER BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AND A SYMPATHETIC
FRIEND. IT ATTACHES HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE IEA AND
THE OECD. ITS SPECIAL SITUATION AS AN EMERGING MAJOR

ENERGY EXPORTER AND THE POLITICAL SCHISMS CREATED BY REJECTION BY REFERENDUM OF EEC MEMBERSHIP ONLY PERMITTED IT TO JOIN THE IEA AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER, BUT IT HAS NONETHELESS COOPERATED CLOSELY WITH US IN THAT BODY.

(D) IMPORTANCE OF OIL TO NORWAY - THE DISCOVERY AND EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS IN ITS SECTOR OF THE NORTH SEA IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR NORWAY SINCE WORLD WAR II. IT PERMEATES ALMOST ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. TO MANY NORWEGIANS IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THEY COULD BE LEFT OUT OF A CONFERENCE WHICH WILL DISCUSS ITEMS AS IMPORTANT TO THEM AS THE MINISTERIAL OF 27, EXPECIALLY WHEN ALL OTHER INTERESTS -- INCLUDING ENERGY IMPORTER AND NEUTRAL INTERESTS -- BUT THEIRS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THE EEC OR OTHER INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES. THEY ARE PREPARED TO MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THE CONFERENCE.

(E) MEMBERSHIP COULD FOSTER INCREASED NORWEGIAN OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION - AS A COUNTRY NEWLY RICH IN OIL AND GAS, NORWAY'S NATURAL FIRST INCLINATION WAS TO SEE WHAT THESE RESOURCES CAN AND WILL DO FOR NORWAY. THIS TENDENCY WAS HEIGHTENED BY THE LOOKING INWARD WHICH FOLLOWED THE 1972 REFERENDUM REJECTING MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC AND IS PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR NORWAY'S DECISION NOT TO DEVELOP ITS OIL AND GAS RESOURCES FASTER. THE BITTERNESS OF THE EEC DEBATE IS RECEDING AND NORWAY IS BECOMING AWARE THAT, IN ADDITION TO BENEFITS, OIL AND GAS HAVE BROUGHT RESPONSIBILITIES. THE GON IS SENDING OUT INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS EMBASSIES IN OECD CAPITALS ASKING THEM TO MAKE THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATIONS FOR NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MINISTERIAL OF 27, STRESSING ITS DESIRE TO COOPERATE
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WITH ITS ALLIES AND ECONOMIC PARTNERS. NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE MINISTERIAL OF 27 WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY LEAD TO ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF ITS OIL AND GAS, BUT SHOULD ELP NUDGE NORWAY IN THAT DIRECTION AND MAKE IT MORE OUTWARD LOOKING. THE CONVERSE IS ALSO TRUE IF THIS OVERTURE IS REJECTED.

2. WE HAVE NEITHER ENCOURAGED NOR DISCOURAGED NORWEGIAN OFFICIALS TO EXPECT SELECTION FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE MINISTERIAL OF 27. HOWEVER, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHE TO SELECTION AS INDICATED TO YOU BY NORWEGIAN USEC OF COMMERCE STOLTENBERG AT RECENT XCSS MEETING, I SHALL NEED STRONG REASONS TO EXPLAIN WHY THEY WERE NOT SELECTED, IF THEY ARE PASSED OVER. THEREFORE, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING

KEPT FULLY INFORMED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS, INCLUDING
SELECTION PROCESS.
BYRNE

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